

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor's Cluster Liaison Officer Governor's Office State of Mississippi

Mississippi has launched a state-wide cluster development program as a central element of the Governor's economic strategy. Clusters are geographic concentrations of firms, suppliers, service providers, research organizations, and other institutions that occur in a particular field. Strong clusters are the primary drivers of economic development. Mississippi's cluster initiative began with the Communications and Information Technology cluster and is now spreading to encompass the entire economy.

The Governor of Mississippi seeks a Harvard MBA graduate for a term of one or two years to serve as the Governor's Cluster Liaison Officer. The Cluster Liaison Officer will represent the Governor's Office with government, academic, and the private sector. He or she will serve as the Governor's liaison to the Mississippi Technology Alliance Board of Directors in implementing a cluster-based economic development approach. Working with staff of the Mississippi Technology Alliance and the Mississippi Development Authority, the Cluster Liaison Officer will:

- Develop a five-year strategic plan for identifying, organizing and promoting clusters in the areas of Communications and Information Technology, Advanced Materials, Transportation and Life Sciences.
- Conduct an annual assessment of cluster development progress.
- Develop a Mississippi Case Study describing efforts to reorient Mississippi's economy to support higher wage jobs.

The Cluster Liaison Officer will work closely with the Governor and his staff, senior private sector leaders in Mississippi's economic development officials, and numerous other groups in the assignment.